



CONSENT CALENDAR

Agenda Item # 8

AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY (REVISED)

Meeting Date: October 22, 2019

Subject: Authorization for purchase of vehicle barrier system

Prepared by: Manny A. Hernandez, Maintenance Services Director

Approved by: Chris Jordan, City Manager

Attachment(s):

1. None

Initiated by:

Staff

Previous Council Consideration:

None

Fiscal Impact:

Purchase of vehicle barrier system has not been budgeted for in fiscal year 2019/2020. Staff is requesting the purchase in the amount of \$85,444.69 from the Maintenance Department operating budget while grants are explored. Depending on the amounts of available grants for this, staff may request a mid-year adjustment.

Environmental Review:

Not applicable

Policy Question(s) for Council Consideration:

- Does Council wish to invest in a vehicle barrier system to further ensure downtown event safety.

Summary:

- Staff is requesting to purchase a vehicle barrier system that is designed to further protect pedestrian traffic at street festivals and events.
- This would be a sole source purchase as defined by the supplier, Meridian Rapid Defense, being the sole provider of a vehicle barrier system that is deployed and moved in a manner that City staff is able to manage.
- This is a protective measure that would deter or limit the effect of a vehicle driving into a street festival/event purposefully or by accident.
- City staff would deploy and collect the system for downtown street events.

Reviewed By:

City Manager

City Attorney

Finance Director

CJ

CD

SE



Subject: Authorization for purchase of vehicle barrier system (Revised)

Staff Recommendation:

Authorize the City Manager to purchase the Meridian Archer 1200 vehicle barrier system and trailer for use as pedestrian protection at downtown street events.

Purpose

Authorize the City Manager to purchase the Meridian Archer 1200 vehicle barrier system and trailer for \$85,444.69 for use at downtown festivals and events.

Background

Making public gatherings as safe as possible is vital when hosting events on city streets and the vehicle barrier system is an important part. Police presence at events is important but it is also important to create an effective barrier between people and vehicles in motion. Finding barriers that are effective while remaining mobile enough for emergency access has always been a challenge. Incidents with vehicles and public gatherings have been well documented and this vehicle barrier system is a safeguard against that.

Discussion/Analysis

Staff is recommending the purchase of a vehicle barrier system for pedestrian protection at street festivals and events. The recommended system is a rapid deployment system that can be placed at vehicle entry points to create a perimeter around the festival/event. The Meridian Archer 1200 is a set of unanchored 700-pound high strength steel units that are designed to lift and incapacitate a vehicle hitting it.

Protecting pedestrians from potential vehicles driving into these gatherings has always been a challenge. Road barriers need to be in place at event entryways that will deter or stop a vehicle driving through pedestrian gatherings. The challenge is placing stationary items heavy or large enough that will achieve this while maintaining the ability move the stationary item for emergency access. In addition, the barrier system has to be easy enough for deployment crews to set up and break down in the least amount of time possible. Agencies do a variety of things to try to accomplish this. Water and concrete barriers are effective but are difficult to move and time consuming to set up. Some agencies use parked vehicles, but this requires someone to remain with the vehicle if emergency access is needed. Standard road barriers are currently being used for road closures at Los Altos events.

The Meridian system did a deployment demo at the Maintenance Service Center on August 29 with Fire, PD and MSC staff in attendance along with the Los Altos Village Association. Northern California users of this system were also contacted as references. Feedback from both the demo and references were all positive. The Archer 1200 vehicle barrier system will be used for the Pasadena Rose Parade in 2020.



Subject: Authorization for purchase of vehicle barrier system (Revised)

Options

- 1) Authorize the City Manager to purchase the Meridian Archer 1200 vehicle barrier system and trailer for \$85,444.69, funding from the Maintenance Services operating budget.

Advantages: The City of Los Altos will have vehicle barriers available for placement at downtown festivals to protect from vehicles driving through pedestrian gatherings.

Disadvantages: Cost not currently budgeted.

- 2) Do not authorize the purchase the Meridian Archer 1200 vehicle barrier system and trailer.

Advantages: No additional cost.

Disadvantages: Current plastic road barrier system will continue to be used for street closures at festivals and events.

Recommendation

The staff recommends Option 1.